



Animal Code Revisions Chapters 6.04, 6.12, and 6.16 Environmental Services



**Council Workshop
January 27, 2009**



Presentation Overview

- 2007 Code Revisions
- Summary of 2008 Wichita Dog Statistics
- 2008 Issues and Code Options or Recommendations
- Wichita and Ks Humane Society Operating Agreement
- Wichita Animal Shelter Update
- “New Beginnings” Program





2007 Code Revisions

Effective January 2008

City Council approved animal code revisions in December 2007, effective in January 2008

- ◆ Revised process for deeming a dog dangerous
- ◆ Established dog fighting paraphernalia illegal
- ◆ Addressed dogs running at large (RAL) by requiring spay/neuter and microchip
- ◆ Established dog breeder license requirements
- ◆ Established unlawful sale of dogs
- ◆ Revised “barking dog complaint”
- ◆ Did not specifically regulate pit bulls



Summary

Wichita 2008 Annual Dog Statistics



- 75 dogs were deemed dangerous.
- 4,617 dogs found RAL with 462 dogs required sterilizing and micro chipped due to frequency.
- 20 barking dog cases to court (none in 2007).
- Four illegal breeder citations issued (1 conviction, 1 pending, 1 not guilty, 1 dismissed).
- Four illegal sale citations issued (4 convictions).
- Nine breeder licenses have been applied for (5 pending OCI approval).



Issue – Pit Bull Dogs

Pit bull dogs remain a significant problem.



In 2008 Pit Bull Dogs account for:

- About 1/4 of all dogs impounded are pit bulls
- About 1/3 of all dogs euthanized are pit bulls
- About 1/4 of all dog related complaints

In 2008 Pit Bull Dogs account for :

- More than 1/2 of all dangerous dogs
- More than 1/3 of all dog attacks & bites
- Almost 1/3 of all dogs found running loose
- Only 16% pit bull dogs redeemed by owners





Issue – Pit Bull Dogs

Pit bulls responsible for most severe attacks and bites.

Over the past two years three children were severely disfigured by pit bull bites (2 less than 3 months apart).



In 2008 two pit bulls hospitalized a man while defending his family as they were walking down the street.

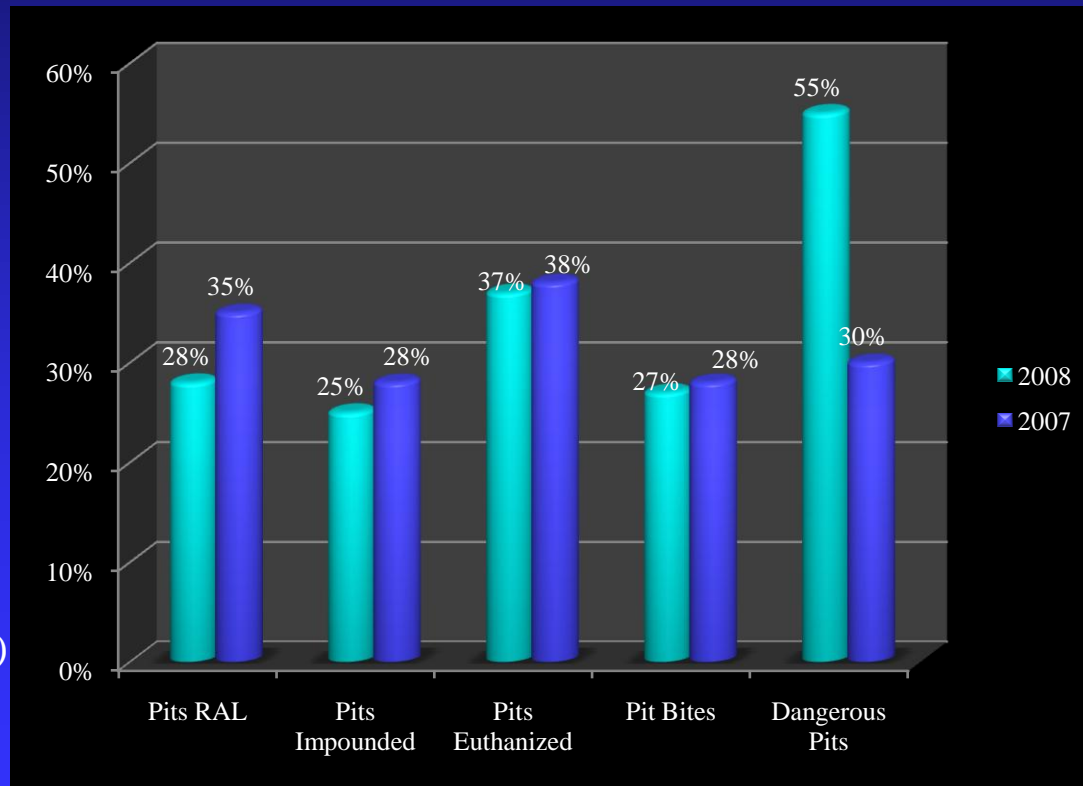


Pit Bull Dogs: 2008 vs. 2007

Pit bulls compared to all dogs:

2008 Pit bulls:

- 1,279 found RAL
- 1,575 impounded
- 1,255 euthanized
- 128 bites
- 41 pits deemed dangerous
- (75 total dangerous)



2007 Pit bulls:

- 1,477 found RAL
- 1,1,793 impounded
- 1,559 euthanized
- 131 bites
- 59 pits deemed dangerous
- (198 total dangerous)



Code Revision Options: Pit Bulls

1. Pit bull ban

- ◆ Determine it unlawful to own or keep pit bull dogs within the corporate city limits of Wichita.

2. Pit bull restrictions

- ◆ Require spaying/neutering and micro chipping of all pit bulls, with exception for licensed breeders.
- ◆ Limit households to 2 surgically sterilized pit bulls, with exception for licensed breeders.

3. No further restrictions

- ◆ Maintain existing ordinance as is.



Issue- Rabies Vaccination Schedule

- Annual vaccinations are currently required by City Ordinance; exceptions are currently allowed with veterinarian's written statement that a dog's health is at risk. (Exceptions currently not used.)
- Some rabies vaccines are approved for three-year immunity.
- In January 2008 a number of citizens requested a change from the existing annual vaccination schedule to a multi-year schedule.



Issue- Rabies Vaccination Schedule

- In response to citizen input ES convened an ad-hoc committee with approval of the City Manager to review vaccination requirements, and included:
 - ◆ Licensed Doctors of Veterinary Medicine
 - ◆ Public health officials
 - ◆ Other experts in animal control and care
- The committee did not reach consensus on which vaccine schedule should be used for Wichita.
- Veterinarians requested additional input.



Issue- Rabies Vaccination Schedule

- ES offered to conduct a survey of area licensed vets and the committee agreed.
- ES arranged with WSU's psychology dept. to conduct a confidential, on-line survey of area vets.
- The survey was initiated by WSU and Environmental Services in mid-November.
- Among the questions, vets were asked if they thought multi- year vaccines would adversely affect public health.



Veterinarian Survey

Survey results:

- No consensus among area veterinarians as to which vaccine provides the best measure of public health protection against rabies.
- 32% of vets surveyed felt that changing to a three year vaccine would adversely effect human health.
- More than half of the vets surveyed felt that changing to a three vaccination period would increase the number of dogs that are NOT vaccinated prior to immunity running out.



Veterinarian Survey

- Vets surveyed indicated that less than 1% of rabies vaccinations given resulted in adverse reactions in dogs (0.7%).
- 58% of vets were concerned that fewer animals would be seen on an annual basis for regular health exams with three year vaccination periods.
- 25% of vets felt that dog health in general would be adversely affected by three year vaccination schedules.
- Overall, participants lacked strong feelings on how a multi-year vaccine would affect dog health.



Veterinarian Survey



- 75% of vets agreed they ought to be allowed individual discretion in determining the frequency with which rabies vaccinations are administered (while adhering to NASPHV Rabies Compendium) .
- 65% of vets reported they would likely vaccinate on a multi-year basis, if permissible by law.



Code Revision Options: Rabies Vaccinations

1. Make no change:

- ◆ Maintain existing ordinance.
- ◆ Allows exception to annual requirement if vet states the vaccine would be harmful to the animal.

2. Allow veterinarians some discretion.

- ◆ Vaccines administered in accordance with the NASPHV Rabies Compendium with the exception to vaccinate at least every three years.
- ◆ Vets must provide annual certification that vaccinations are current.
- ◆ Maintain annual licensing requirement.



Issue and Recommendation - Revise Organization of Codes

- Animal Codes that apply to the keeping and control of domestic animals exist in three separate chapters of the City Code:
 - ◆ 6.04 Animal Control & Protection
 - ◆ 6.12 Keeping Animals & Fowl
 - ◆ 6.16 Cats
- Recommend combining all three chapters pertaining to domestic animals into one chapter: Chapter 6.04.



Issue - Animal Nuisances

- The current ability to deal with animal nuisance issues on private property is limited.
 - ◆ Issues often involve animal waste left behind on property not owned by the animal owner.
 - ◆ Cats are often the cause of complaints in this area.
 - ◆ Cats and dogs can be destructive, damaging property.





Proposed Code Revisions: Animal Nuisances

- Revise codes to provide authority for enforcement actions and penalties for:
 - ◆ Damages to private property.
 - ◆ Ripping open or turning over trash.
 - ◆ Defecating on public and private property not owned by the pet's owner.
 - ◆ Causing conditions that threaten public health & safety.



Issue – Animal Maintenance

- Horses and livestock



- ◆ Numbers of horses seem to be increasing.
 - ◆ Complaints involve not enough room for animals, inadequate facilities, odors, and other nuisances.
- Current ordinance unclear as to number of animals allowed.
 - No clear space limitation.



Proposed Code Revision:

Establish Livestock Limitations

- Amend codes to establish minimum land areas for keeping livestock; one acre per head of livestock. Current animals will be grandfathered if owner has current Animal Maintenance Permit (AMP).
- Amend to clarify number of domestic animals allowed to be kept.
- Amend to clarify and to agree with zoning regulations.



Additional Issues Needing Code Revisions

■ **Dog Rescues and Foster Homes**

- ◆ Can be “hoarders”
- ◆ Zoning Code Revision required to allow 6 dogs in rescue and foster homes (for residential zoning)

■ **Unlawful breeding and sale of dogs**

- ◆ Located in residential areas?

■ **Pet groomers and commercial animal facilities**

- ◆ Pet waste and odor most frequent complaints



Issue: Dog Parks

Dog Parks

- Several off-leash dog parks are planned to be built and opened.
- At least two dog parks will open in 2009.

Ordinance needed to address:

- City liability
- Control of dogs
- User accessibility and responsibilities



Wichita Animal Shelter and Kansas Humane Society Operating Agreement

- A draft operating agreement between CoW and KHS is being reviewed by the City's Law Department.
- The agreement will be presented to Council in the near future for consideration.
- The agreement will end duplication of services to more efficiently serve the community.



Wichita Animal Shelter Update





Wichita Animal Shelter Update

- Project is on schedule for completion March 10, 2009.
- Move in of field operations will be initiated upon construction completion, followed by shelter services.
- City facility expected to be fully operational by April 1, 2009.
- KHS facility will be completed and operational in the summer of 2009.



What's New?

“New Beginnings” – A Pet Adoption Program

- ES has started a new program that provides a free cat or dog adoption to families whose pet has perished in a home fire.
- WFD and ES estimates 40 pets were lost due to fires in 2008 (three over the last two months).
- Initial program expenses to be paid out of the shelter's public donation fund.





QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

